

WASHINGTON, D.C. Congressman Sanford Bishop offered the following statement in response to the Supreme Court’s Monday ruling that the phrase “under God” may remain in the Pledge of Allegiance as recited in public school classrooms:

“While the Court’s opinion fell short of providing the constitutional endorsement that I and many of my colleagues would like to see, it did uphold an important right and practice of our nation’s schools and I commend the Court on it’s ruling.

“It’s important for our children to learn the meaning of patriotism and to respect our national flag. A powerful symbol of our most fundamental and God-given values, our flag represents the sacrifice of millions of Americans who have fought and died to uphold freedom, justice and opportunity for all. The Pledge of Allegiance helps teach all of us about the meaning of our representative form of democracy and the history of faith in its founding.”

Congressman Bishop joined 67 of his colleagues in Congress to file an amicus brief with the Supreme Court, which both argued the constitutionality of the phrasing “under God” and the lack of legal standing Michael Newdow had in challenging the pledge. The Supreme Court overturned the 2003 federal appeals court decision on the procedural grounds that as a non-custodial parent Newdow lacked legal standing to sue.